

THE IBIS.

NEW SERIES.

No. XXII. APRIL 1870.

X.—*Notes relating chiefly to the Birds of India.*

By EDWARD BLYTH, Hon. Mem. As. Soc.

AN examination, last autumn, of the Leyden Museum enabled me to make a number of brief notes, some of which I trust may be useful to students of the ornithology of India. I could not, however, spare the time to draw up descriptions in detail of all the various birds I here mention.

The species and races of GYPS will only be properly understood when adequate series of well-prepared skins of each of them are brought together. I have now seen several stuffed specimens and one fine living adult of *G. kolbii* of South Africa, which Mr. Gurney agrees with me (*Ibis*, 1869, p. 287) in regarding as distinct from *G. fulvus*. The living example is in the Zoological Garden at Antwerp, where it is kept in company with adults of *G. fulvus*. In the hue of its upper parts it resembles *G. indicus* (*verus* = *Vultur tenuirostris*, Hodgs.), while the lower parts are white instead of being deep brown as in *G. fulvus*. The head and neck also are much less clad, the black skin showing conspicuously, in which it again resembles *G. indicus*. Of the last-mentioned species I found one stuffed specimen only, in non-adult plumage, in the Leyden Museum, to the specific distinctions of which I called the attention of Professor Schlegel, who is now satisfied of their validity. Whether the Hi-

malayan bird usually referred to *G. fulvus* (the *G. indicus*, Temm., and of Schlegel, *passim*) should not also be regarded as distinct, I will leave to Mr. Gurney to decide ; he at least inclines to the opinion that it should be so recognized. I met him in the Leyden Museum, and examined with him several of the more or less disputed species of Birds of Prey. He called my attention to certain peculiarities of the large Himalayan *Gyps*, especially to its much paler under parts and the striped appearance of the young as compared with the European *G. fulvus* ; but really good and well-prepared specimens, in different stages of plumage, of the Himalayan bird are still much needed to enable us to arrive at a determinate conclusion ; and I may take the opportunity of remarking that a good series of *G. indicus* (*verus*) is also wanted in every European museum that I know. Can it be that both *G. fulvus* and *G. indicus*, apud Temminck, inhabit the Himalayas, and that the latter is the bird which Mr. A. O. Hume has recently distinguished by the name *G. fulvescens* (Ibis, 1869, p. 356) ? In the 'Field' newspaper for October 2nd, 1869 (p. 291), there is a notice (translated from the Russian) of M. Severtsoff's explorations in the Thian Shan range, in the course of which is mentioned "the enormous *Vultur indicus*, measuring 9 ft. 5 in. across the wings." I can only suppose that the Himalayan representative of *Gyps fulvus* must be the bird intended.

ACCIPITER NISOIDES (*A. gularis*, Schleg.) and *A. VIRGATUS* are now considered by Prof. Schlegel to be identical ; but looking carefully over the extensive series of specimens in the Leyden Museum with Mr. Gurney, we arrived at the opinion that they should be kept apart. If *A. nisoides* be only a phase (or rather phases of the two sexes) of *A. virgatus*, why should it not be of common occurrence in India, like the ordinary *A. virgatus* ? which assuredly is not the case. It is even doubtful whether *A. nisoides* occurs in India at all, unless rarely in the Himalaya, whither so many other eastern species extend their range, which do not occur in India southward of the Himalaya. The specimen referred, doubtfully, to *A. nisoides* by Dr. F. Stoliczka (J. A. S. B. 1868, p. 13) should rather be assigned, as it ap-

pears to me, from his description of it, to *A. nisus**; and with regard to his remark that "one of three originals" in the Indian Museum is lost, I beg leave to assure him that there never were more than two examples of *A. nisoides* in the Museum formerly under my charge, the third specimen referred to having belonged to Lord Walden. In the course of my numerous descriptions of birds in the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society' and elsewhere, not a few specimens are noticed that did not belong to the Society.

With respect also to the species of *SPIZAETUS* noticed in the 'Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal' for August 1868 (p. 195), I may remark that there is no such bird as *Limnaetus alboniger* of Horsfield, and that *Falco caligatus* of Raffles (as can only be determined by his drawing of it in the Library at the India House) is not identical with *Spizaetus alboniger*, nobis, but with *S. limnaetus*, which latter is common to Bengal, Indo-China, the Malayan peninsula, Sumatra, and Java, whereas *S. alboniger* is peculiar to the Malayan countries. The "*Limnaetus*" unnamed (*loc. cit.*) is probably the young of *S. alboniger* (*S. nanus*, Wallace, Ibis, 1868, p. 14, pl. 1). *S. cirrhatus* of the Indian peninsula and also of the Himalaya is likewise found in Java, as before suggested by me (Ibis, 1866, p. 242), being exemplified by one or more Javan specimens in the Leyden Museum, which I have examined with Mr. Gurney.

The nestling *AQUILA PENNATA* (J. A. S. B. 1868, p. 16; *vide* Ibis, 1868, p. 305) is distinctly stated to be "underneath brown, with a large white shoulder-spot." I have always considered this to be the plumage of immaturity, and the white-breasted specimens to be adults (*cf.* Ibis, 1867, p. 183), as likewise in *A. bonelli*, whereas in the *Spizaeti* the white-breasted individuals are in their first plumage. The subcrested form of *Hieraetus*, Kaup, to which all the Indian examples which I obtained (and one near Maulmein) are referable (Ibis, 1866, p. 241), is probably identical with *H. morphnoides*, Gould, which, in Australia, is considered to be a rare species; for I incline to doubt the constancy

* Since writing the above, I find that Herr v. Pelzeln is of the same opinion (Ibis, 1868, p. 306).

of the alleged distinction of "the total absence of the white mark on the shoulders," and that of the colour of the cere and feet, which may depend on age.

PERNIS CRISTATUS and **P. APIVORUS**. For a long while past a fine example of the Indian *P. cristatus* has lived in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, at first in company with one, and since with two examples of *P. apivorus*. As in the many that I have seen in India, the former has dark brownish-red irides, whereas the European bird has bright yellow irides. In all the specimens of *P. cristatus* which I remember to have seen from Southern India, Tenasserim, and the Malay countries, the crest is well developed, whereas I never saw it more than rudimentary in Bengal, where the species is tolerably common. A fresh crestless specimen of *P. cristatus* might always, I believe, be readily distinguished from *P. apivorus* by the colour of the irides alone. Burma may be added to the other localities recorded by Mr. Gurney (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 356) as forming the range of *Circus melanoleucus*.

STRIX INDICA, nobis (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 250). Numerous specimens from Java in the Leyden Museum, and others (skins) from Australia, referred to *S. delicatula*, Gould, in the British Museum, differ in no respect from the common species of India and Burma, which I suppose must be reinstated as *S. javanica*; while the *S. javanica* of Horsfield (which is figured by Messrs. Gray and Mitchell) is considered by Mr. Gurney, as by Dr. Kaup, to be identical with *S. delicatula* (*vera*). No two species of the genus *Strix* are more distinct than these are, whether from each other or from the European and North-African *S. flammea*.

SCELOSTRIX CANDIDA. In a collection containing several species of mammalia and birds which are peculiar to Burma with Tenasserim, so far as hitherto known*, I found the adult and young of this species, the latter clad with exceedingly long brown fluffy down and presenting a remarkable appearance. I have a very strong suspicion that *Strix pithecopis*, Swinhoe, from China, *S. amauronota*, Cabanis, from the Philippines, and *S.*

* This collection has since passed into Lord Walden's possession.

walleri, Diggles, from Australia, must alike subside to the rank of synonyms of *Scelostrix candida* (*vide ante*, p. 119).

HUHUA ORIENTALIS. There is a specimen of this bird from Java in the Leyden Museum, which corresponds to *H. pectoralis* of Jerdon; and the latter, therefore, has been rightly assigned by Bonaparte to *H. orientalis*, which must now be included in the fauna of Southern India. *Bubo orientalis minor* of Prof. Schlegel from Banka, is a diminutive of his *B. orientalis*, the former having the wing from 13 to 14 inches long, the latter 15 to 16 inches.

HIRUNDO DAURICA and **H. ERYTHROPYGIA.** Mr. W. E. Brooks tells us (*Ibis*, 1869, p. 46) that "the Himalayan bird is rather larger than that of the plains," or that, "in other words, the hill-bird answers perfectly to the description of *H. daurica*, and the bird of the plains to that of *H. erythropygia*." Dr. Stoliczka, however, remarks (*J. A. S. B.* 1868, p. 17) that "the smaller type, which Blyth considers as distinct from *H. daurica*, Linn., is common all through the Sutlej valley, especially in the portion between Kotegurh and the frontier of Silut." Capt. Beavan gives the length of wing in a Simla specimen as 4.5 in. only, which should indicate the smaller race or species (*Ibis*, 1869, p. 404).

CYPSELUS SUBFURCATUS, nobis, is labelled *C. leucorrhous*, S. Müller, in the Leyden Museum, but is not *C. leucorrhous* (Steph.).

CYPSELUS PACIFICUS and **C. LEUCONYX.** It is quite a mistake on the part of Dr. Stoliczka (*J. A. S. B.* 1868, p. 18) to suppose that these differ only in the colour of their claws. *C. pacificus* is much more robust, with a conspicuously larger foot. It appears to be found throughout the Malay countries; and in the Tenasserim provinces it occurs so high as Maulmein, where I have seen it upon the wing (far beyond the reach of shot), and where Col. Tickell obtained a specimen which he sent to the Asiatic Society. *C. acuticauda*, nobis (considered a dubious species by Dr. Stoliczka), is much more nearly akin to *C. leuconyx* than it is to *C. apus*, but is blacker and has no white band crossing the rump.

MEROPS VIRIDIS (var. *ferrugiceps*). With reference to Capt. Beavan's remark (*Ibis*, 1869, p. 407), I can only say that I concluded that this species was breeding near Maulmein ("so late as the middle of August") from seeing numbers of them resorting to their holes in a high perpendicular bank. In the Burmese collection previously mentioned were several examples of this bird, all of them referable to the variety designated *ferrugiceps* by Mr. Hodgson. In fact the three Asiatic varieties of this species are about as well worthy of separation as is the African variety from either one of them. They are recognizable as local races.

PALÆORNIS ROSA. Some time ago Mr. Gould called my attention to two races confounded under this name, which are evidently distinct; but he was uncertain about their respective habitats. I now find that one inhabits India and the other Burma. The former shows some blue, while the other is totally green, on the inner side of the wing; and the bright colouring of the nape of the male is abruptly defined in the Indian species, but not in the Burmese. Whether the cap of the latter ever obtains so rich a colouring as in the other, when fully adult and in the breeding-season, remains to be ascertained.

The habitat of the green-tailed race (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 353) has yet to be determined; and I have seen no second specimen of it.

PALÆORNIS TORQUATUS and *P. CUBICULARIS*. Mr. W. T. Blanford writes (*J. A. S. B.* 1869, p. 167):—"I have lately shot the African race (*P. cubicularis*, Hasselquist) in northern Abyssinia. The only distinction I can detect from the common Indian *P. torquatus* is that the former bird has a larger bill." The African race is always conspicuously smaller, with a proportionally smaller bill, which is invariably (so far as I have seen) more or less blackish, instead of bright coral-red as in the other; and the roscate nuchal ring of the male is less developed in the African species, being much narrower (almost evanescent) behind or at the nape, where in *P. torquatus* it is broadest. There is also much less of the greyish or dusty appearance about the plumage of the male bird. The two species may generally be seen in cages next to each other in the Parrot-house in the

Regent's Park, a pair of each of them, as at the present time. Which of them, if either, it is that visits Syria, where it is recorded ('Journal of the Euphrates Expedition,' i. pp. 443, 537) as "abounding in the spring," remains to be ascertained.

PALÆORNIS JAVANICUS and *P. VIBRISCA*. These only differ in the Javan bird having a red lower mandible, while the other has a black one; but in some Javan specimens the lower mandible is blackish, and Mr. Gould has a specimen from Siam with a red under mandible: the Hainan birds have it black (*antèa*, p. 93).

PICUS WAGLERI, Hartlaub. A specimen thus labelled, from the "Himalaya," in the Amsterdam Museum is like *P. macæi*, but larger, with the median six rectrices black as in *P. atratus*; wing 4.625 in. *P. wagleri*, Hartl., is identified with *P. macæi* by Malherbe, who describes and figures a Brazilian species under that name. If he be right, the species at Amsterdam may bear the title of *P. WESTERMANI*, nobis. The Tenasserim *P. atratus* is also larger than *P. macæi*, or 8 inches in total length, notwithstanding that Capt. Beavan (*Ibis*, 1869, p. 413) places a mark of doubt to this! The species which he describes (*loc. cit.*) is *Yungipicus canicapillus*, nobis, barely distinguishable from *Y. sondaicus*, of the Malayan peninsula (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 354).

CHRYSOCOLAPTES STRICTUS. Of three figures assigned to this species by Malherbe, the supposed female seems to be that of *C. delesserti*, while the lowest figure in his plate represents the female of *C. strictus*, having the yellow cap as before mentioned by me (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 355).

MUELLERIPICUS FEDDENI, Blanford (*J. A. S. B.* xxxii. p. 75, 1863), is *Thriponax jerdoni*, Cab. & Heine (*Mus. Hein.* ii. p. 105, note, 15 July, 1863).

GEVINUS VIRIDANUS, nobis, common in the Tenasserim provinces, has been identified with *G. dimidiatus* of Sumatra and Java; and there is in the Leyden Museum a specimen of the Indian *G. striolatus*, nobis, marked from Java, which I cannot help suspecting must be a mistake.

After carefully looking over the extensive collection of Cucu-

LIDÆ in the Leyden Museum, I found nothing to alter my opinion regarding the various oriental species, expressed in 'The Ibis' for 1866 (pp. 359 *et seq.*). But I may mention that the Javan *Surniculus* (or *Polyphasias*) resembles that of Bengal, Tenasserim, and Pinang, as distinguished from the smaller *S. merulinus* of Malacca.

ARACHNOTHERA AURATA, nobis (J. A. S. B. xxiv. p. 478). In the collection of Burmese birds before mentioned I noticed two examples of this species, which previously I only knew from the single specimen originally described.

UPUPA EOPS. It is remarked by Herr von Pelzeln (Ibis, 1868, p. 307) that "all Asiatic specimens, more especially on the back, are of a greyer hue"—that is, than European examples of the Hoopoe. The Burmese Hoopoes, however, are considerably more rufous above than those either of Bengal or of Europe; and Dr. Jerdon even separates them by the name *U. longirostris* (*cf.* Ibis, 1866, p. 366), which does not appear to be an appropriate appellation.

LANIUS NIGRICEPS is marked *L. pileatus* in the Leyden Museum, where also there are specimens of the *L. cristatus*-type from Amurland just like the Bengal species, and others from Bornco and Ceylon, which are absolutely undistinguishable from some received from China! likewise many examples from Java of *L. superciliosus* and *L. magnirostris*, which Lord Walden has already noticed as inhabiting that island (Ibis, 1869, p. 242).

TCHITREA PARADISI, *apud* Stoliczka, Von Pelzeln, and Brooks (J. A. S. B. 1868, p. 26, Ibis, 1868, p. 314, and 1869, p. 49). Should not this rather be *T. affinis*? which is the only one that I have ever seen in Himalayan collections.

DRYMOPHILA LIMBATA, Temm., from Java and Timor, is a *Philentoma*, like *P. velatum*, but larger. Leyden Museum.

CYANOPTILA CYANOMELANURA. A specimen of this Japanese bird in the Leyden Museum is labelled as coming from Nipâl, which must needs be a mistake*. There is likewise one example

* I also found there a female of *Sialia arctica* marked from Nipâl!

of probably a female in quasi-masculine attire, from Japan, having the throat, breast, and ear-coverts, which are black in the mature male of *C. cyanomelanura*, of a dull whitish colour, while the back is strongly tinged with verditer. It is figured as the ordinary female of the species in the 'Fauna Japonica' (*Aves*, pl. xvii.).

CYORNIS CYANOPOLIA (Boie), from Sumatra, Java, and Borneo, differs in no respect that I can perceive, whether from recollection or comparison with Dr. Jerdon's description, from *C. unicolor*, nobis, of the Sikhim Himalaya. The female (*Muscicapa infuscata*, Müller) is rufous-brown above, darker upon the crown, and brighter on the tail; lower parts pure white, except the sides of the breast, which are coloured like the back. Wing 3.125 in.

CYORNIS BECCARIANA, Salvadori. One of two Bornean species of this genus, which were undescribed when I first took notes of them in 1868, I now identify as above. It differs from *C. elegans* (*rubeculoides*) in having the whole throat to the ear-coverts rufous-white; forehead, over the eye, shoulder of wing, and upper tail-coverts of a more lazuline blue than in *C. elegans*, and the breast is less deeply tinged with rufous; legs pale; wing 2.75 in.

CYORNIS SIMPLEX, sp. n.

This species is distinguished by its conspicuous white lores; throat pale ferruginous, which colour extends nearly (but not quite) to the ear-coverts; upper parts duller blue than in the others, with no bright blue on the forehead and over the eye, or on the upper tail-coverts, and little more than an indication of brighter colouring on the shoulder of the wing; breast rather bright ferruginous; flanks tinged with the same; legs brown; wing 2.75 in. The presumed female is wholly ferruginous-brown, very bright ferruginous on tail; the lower parts paler, whitish on throat and middle of belly; orbital feathers whitish. Wing 2.625 in. *C. rufifrons*, Wallace, is a fourth species of this genus inhabiting Borneo.

Of *C. ruficauda* it is remarked by Dr. Stoliczka (J. A. S. B. 1868, p. 29) that the "male and female do not differ in colouring, except that the breast is somewhat more albescent in the

latter"—that is, that both sexes have a colouring corresponding to the ordinary feminine garb in this genus. In a female of *C. tickellie* obtained by Mr. Blanford (J. A. S. B. 1869, p. 174) "the plumage was precisely similar to that of the male"—that is, the ordinary masculine garb of the genus. I cannot help suspecting that the latter case was exceptional in the species, as with a female Redstart (*Ruticilla phænicurus*) I obtained last spring, and now in the collection of my friend Mr. Bond; but this I should describe as exhibiting a quasi-masculine phase of plumage.

MUSCICAPA MUELLERI, Temm., from Sumatra and Borneo, is very like *M. mugimaki* of Java as well as of Japan; and my *Erythrosterna erythaca* from Pinang is probably the female of the former rather than of the latter (as assigned by Mr. Swinhoe).

ERYTHROSTERNA LEUCURA. In the opinion of Herr von Pelzeln, this bird is not distinct from *E. parva* (Ibis, 1868, p. 316). But Mr. W. T. Blanford remarks of *E. parva* (J. A. S. B. 1869, p. 174) that it is "common about Nagpur. I did not," he adds, "obtain a single specimen of *E. leucura*, which is probably only found in Bengal and Orissa, like some other migratory birds. [I observed it to be an exceedingly common winter visitant in the neighbourhood of Akyab.] In *E. parva* the buff feathers round the orbits are peculiarly conspicuous. Males shot so early as the end of November had the red breast; so that, except in birds of the year, I doubt if the male ever has the plumage of the female." The male of *E. leucura* seems always to have a trace of rufous or ferruginous about the chin, by which it may be distinguished from the other sex; but the well-defined ferruginous gular mark (never spreading upon the breast as in the other) does not make its appearance till late in the spring, immediately prior to their departure from the vicinity of Calcutta. It is a particularly abundant species, of which specimens were brought to me continually, with others, throughout the season; and I never saw one having the gular mark except late in the spring, nor a specimen that was intermediate in the extension of this rufous. I therefore hold with Mr. Blanford, that *E. leucura* should be recognized separately from *E. parva*.

PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA (Ibis, 1868, p. 309; 1869, p. 53). It is very possible that this bird may occur in the higher Himalaya, and yet be distinct from *P. indica* of the lower elevations and of the plains. The difference of the note in the instance of the race which visits Lower Bengal in the cold season was at once recognized by me, and influenced me when I proposed its separation from *P. rubicola*. In European examples (so far as I have seen) the ferruginous colouring of the lower parts is always much more developed than in specimens procured in Bengal or elsewhere on the plains of India; but Dr. Bettoni's figure of a Lombard (?) specimen (Ucc. Lomb. tav. 66) is a better representation of the ordinary *P. indica* than is that of Mr. Gould (B. As. pt. xv.).

SAXICOLA LEUCURA and S. OPISTHOLEUCA (not *leucuroides*) of India (Ibis, 1869, p. 234). Mr. Hume may rest assured that the two birds here mentioned are distinct not only in species but in genus, the first being a true *Dromolæa*, and therefore much more robust in form than the other. Both species should be in the Calcutta Museum.

LARVIVORA CYANA and IANTHIA CYANURA (J. A. S. B. 1868, p. 310, and Ibis, 1868, p. 310) should now stand as *L. superciliaris* (Jerdon), and *I. rufilata* (Hodgson) (Ibis, 1867, p. 16). The Japanese *Lusciola komadori*, Schlegel, seems to be allied to *Larvivora*, and is decidedly not a true Robin.

MYIOTHERA LEUCOPHRYS, Temm., is a true *Brachypteryx*. There are three specimens in female plumage in the Leyden Museum.

TESIA SUPERCILIARIS and MICRURA SQUAMATA, from Java, are in the Leyden Museum. The latter is doubtfully identical with *M.* or *Pnoepyga squamata (vera)* of the Himalaya.

TURDUS PALLENS, Pallas, is *T. rufulus*, Drapiez, *T. modestus*, Eyton, beside having other synonyms.

"GEOCICHLA MUTABILIS, S. Müller?" sp. n. (Leyden Museum.) Adult slaty, with white supercilium, white vent and tips to lower tail-coverts. Java.

ACROCEPHALUS AGRICOLUS, Jerdon, is identical (so far as I

can perceive) with the European *A. palustris*, inappropriately so denominated.

LOCUSTELLA CERTHIOLA, from Eastern Siberia, in the Leyden Museum is like *L. naevia*, but larger, with a much larger bill. Very decidedly not the Indian species as supposed by Dr. Jerdon.

L. LANCEOLATA, from Southern Russia, in the Leyden Museum is like *L. naevia*, but with the breast and flanks very much spotted.

SYLVIA ARALENSIS, from Kokan, in the Leyden Museum is like *Phyllopneuste rama*, but with white outer rectrices, the outermost wholly white, the next with white outer web.

S. BOREALIS, Blasius, from Java, Borneo, Philippines, and Ceylon is *Phylloscopus magnirostris*, nobis. Leyden Museum.

PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS. If Mr. W. E. Brooks obtained this European species near Almorah (Ibis, 1869, pp. 56, 236, and 354), he must still not conclude it to be identical with *P. tristis*, nobis; for the two are conspicuously distinct, and there should be a good series of both of them in the Calcutta Museum. The question rather is, whether *P. tristis* should be considered identical with *P. brevirostris*, Strickland (*vide* Ibis, 1867, p. 25). Herr v. Pelzeln, who is doubtless well acquainted with *P. rufus*, admits *P. tristis* (Ibis, 1868, p. 308); and I can only suppose that the veritable *P. tristis* was unknown to Mr. Brooks.

P. AFFINIS, Tickell. Again I cannot at all understand Dr. Stoliczka, when he asserts that *P. affinis* "is exceedingly like the European *P. sibilatrix* and perhaps identical with it" (J. A. S. B. 1868, p. 46). No two species of the genus are more unlike each other; and the only Indian *Phylloscopus* known to me that could well be mistaken for *P. sibilatrix* (though still exceedingly well distinguished) is *P. nitidus*. Herr v. Pelzeln only admits *P. tristis* and *P. affinis* in his catalogue of Dr. Stoliczka's specimens.

Of *REGULUS HIMALAYENSIS*, which Herr v. Pelzeln identifies with *R. cristatus*, I only saw one specimen, which I believe was procured near Simla, and it should be now in the

Calcutta Museum. It was considerably larger in its dimensions than any one of several European examples of *R. cristatus* which I had for comparison ; and Mr. Gould independently separated the Himalayan bird for the same reason. Dr. Stoliczka gives some details concerning its range of distribution north of India (J. A. S. B. 1868, p. 47*).

"SYLVIA [REGULOIDES ?] LEUCORRHOA, S. Müller," in the Leyden Museum, from Java, is *Pycnosphrys grammiceps*, Strickl. (Contr. Orn. 1849, p. 124, pl. 34. fig. 1). (Cf. Ibis, 1867, p. 28.)

"ABRORNIS SCHWANERI (Temm.)," sp. nondescr. Dull ruddy-green above, yellow below ; crown and ear-coverts dusky ; throat and front of neck dull whitish ; a slight pale supercilium ; rictal bristles conspicuous ; tail somewhat ruddy ; wing 2.25 in. *Hab.* "Borneo." Leyden Museum.

"A. ATRICAPILLA, Temm.," sp. nondescr. Yellowish green above, yellowish on the forehead, cheeks, and underparts ; the whole vertex black. *Hab.* "China" †. Leyden Museum.

* In races which differ only in size, some are remarkably constant (so far as known as yet), e. g. *Pratincola bicolor* and *P. caprata*, *Hemicercus canente* and *H. cordatus*. In *Pyrrhula vulgaris* the size is always small in the British Islands, and large (*P. coccinea*) in Scandinavia ; while in the German birds sold commonly in the London shops I have remarked much difference of size, and I suspect (from what I have seen of them) that a gradation from that of the Scandinavian to that of the British Bullfinch might be obtained. The assumed diversity of *Fregilus himalaianus* from *F. graculus* has been disproved by Herr v. Pelzeln (Ibis, 1869, p. 317) ; and exceptionally large specimens of *Corvus corax* would seem to occur now and then in Europe as well as in Tibet, which is adverse to the admission of *C. tibetanus* as a permanent and distinct race, as I presume also to that of *C. maximus* (Ibis, 1869, p. 393 ; vide Stoliczka, J. A. S. B. 1868, p. 54, note, and Layard, Ibis, 1868, pp. 246, 247).

† The two following species in the Leyden Museum are akin to *Phylloscopus* ; but it was getting dark when I noted them, and I neglected to examine them afterwards :—

"SYLVIA PRESBYTES, S. Müll.," sp. n. Dusky green above, with dusky cap, and conspicuous whitish supercilia ; three outer tail-feathers more or less completely white in different specimens ; throat and front of neck whitish, the rest of the lower parts tinged with yellow. *Hab.* "Timor."

"S. VIRESCENS, S. Müll.," sp. n. Dull greenish-brown above, whitish below ; tail somewhat ruddy ; bill rather short, wing 2 in. *Hab.* "New Guinea."

NEORNIS MONTANA? (Horsfield) (*vide* Ibis, 1867, p. 22); *Sylvia vulcania*, S. Müller. Wholly dark brown, paler below, whitish on throat and along middle of lower parts; a slight pale supercilia; wing 2·5 in.; tail 2·75 in., much cuneated. *Hab.* "Java and Timor." Leyden Museum.

"SYLVIA GRACILIOIDES, Temm.", received from Andalusia, is very doubtfully separable from *Burnesia gracilis* (*Prinia gracilis*, Rüppell). Leyden Museum.

CISTICOLA DELICATULA from Java requires comparing with *C. erythrocephala*, Jerdon, of India. Leyden Museum.

MYIOTHERA CAPISTRATA from Borneo, and *M. capistratoides* from Sumatra. The latter identical with *Goldana nigrocapitata* (Eyton), and the former probably with *G. capistratoides*, Strickland (Contr. Orn. 1849, p. 128, pl. 36). Leyden Museum.

NAPOTHERA CORONATA = *Trichostoma rostratum*?; *N. pileata* = *T. magnum*; *N. rubicauda* = *T. ferruginosum*; *N. lepidoccephala*, another of the same genus. Leyden Museum. (*Vide* Ibis, 1865, p. 47.)

MIXORNIS, Hodgson. The species inhabiting India, Burma, Malacca, and Sumatra (*M. rubricapillus*), is marked *Timalia sumatrana*, the kindred Javan race (*T. gularis*, Horsfield) being larger. Leyden Museum.

STACHYRHIS, Hodgson. *Timalia larvata*, S. Müll. (Bp. Consp. Av. i. p. 217) of Sumatra, appertains to this very distinct genus, and is nearly akin to *S. nigriceps*, Hodgson. Leyden Museum.

The species of TURDINUS are referred at Leyden to *Myiothera*. *M. lepidopleura* = *T. macrodactylus* (Strickland), with Java as one habitat; *M. epilepidota* is also from Java, *M. loricata* from Sumatra, *M. atrogularis* from Borneo, and *M. murina* from New Guinea. (These names require some reconciling with those in the India-House Museum, *vide* Ibis, 1865, p. 47).

TRICHOPHORUS BRUNNESCENS = *Iole olivacea*. Leyden Museum.

LOPHOPHANES DICHROUS must be the species meant by Dr. Adams (P. Z. S. 1859, p. 176), about which I have hitherto been doubtful (Ibis, 1867, p. 34).

IXUS INORNATUS = *I. brunneus* et *I. plumosus* (nec *I. simplex*).
Leyden Museum.

ORIOLOUS CHINENSIS : 27 specimens from Java, Borneo, China, and elsewhere. Not any that could be referred to *O. hippocrepis* or to *O. tenuirostris* ! *O. phaiocomus* is a remarkably coloured Oriole from Gilolo, which is wholly blackish. Leyden Museum.

COCHOA, Hodgson = *Oreas*, Temm., as exemplified by *O. azurea* (*Pteruthius azureus*, Temm., Pl. Col. 274), which I assigned rightly from the figure of it cited (*Ibis*, 1867, p. 32). It is interesting to find a Javan representative of this particularly remarkable Asiatic form.

GARRULAX RUBIGINOSUS, nobis (*Ibis*, 1865, p. 46), proves to be a West-African bird, which in Leyden is marked *Crateropus atripennis*, Swainson (*Phyllanthus capucinus*, Lesson); and the allied *G. poliocephalus*, nobis (*loc. cit.*), may also, therefore, be African. There is, however, a Sumatran *G. poliocephalus* (Temm.)—rufous-brown, with grey head, throat, and front of neck; lores and chin black; the bill and feet pale. Leyden Museum*.

CORVUS MACRORHYNCHUS, Temm. = *C. culminatus*, Sykes.

CORVUS VALIDUS, Schlegel = *C. tenuirostris*, Moore Wing 12 to 12·5 in. *Hab.* Malacca, Sumatra.

CORVUS ENCA, Horsfield. Wing 11 to 12 in. *Hab.* Java.

CORVUS VALIDISSIMUS, Schlegel. Wing 12 to 13 in.; beak immense. Batchian and elsewhere. This and the two last mentioned form three races, differing only in size. Leyden Museum.

UROCISSA CUCULLATA, *apud* Beavan (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 169). Obviously *U. flavirostris*, nobis, as distinguished from *U. cucullata*, Gould.

DONACOLA ATRICAPILLA (Leyden Museum) = *Munia rubro-nigra*, Hodgson. Bornean specimens are similar to Indian, with belly and lower tail-coverts black; in the Sumatran this black is almost obsolete; and in those from Macassar the black be-

* In '*Ibis*,' 1868, p. 249, line 20, for "albescens," read "allied."

neath is well developed, while that of the head and neck is much imbrowned. It is quite arbitrary where to draw the line as to what are to be considered species, races, or varieties, in the genus *Munia*, at least in not a few instances.

MUNIA. The specific name *punctularia* is assigned at Leyden to the Indian race, *M. undulata* (Latham), with golden-fulvous upper tail-coverts, and *nisoria*, Temm., to the Malayan race with greyish upper tail-coverts. A third race, from Celebes, has no pale shafts to the feathers of the upper parts, being otherwise like that of India.

M. CHRYSURA, from Borneo, = *M. leucogastra*, nobis, from Malacca.

M. ACUTICAUDA, Hodgson, is marked "*M. muscadina*, s.n.", from Sumatra. Leyden Museum.

TO PASSER FLAVEOLUS, nobis (J. A. S. B. xiii. p. 946), from Burma, should be referred *Pyrgita jugifera*, Temm. (Bonap., Consp. Av. i. p. 508), labelled as from the Philippines, a habitat which I cannot help thinking should be regarded as dubious for the present. There is only a single male specimen of it in the Leyden Museum.

TO PASSER DENTATUS (Sundevall?) (Bonap., Consp. Av. i. p. 513) add *P. canicapillus*, nobis (Ibis, 1865, p. 46), as a synonym.

LINOTA FRINGILLIROSTRIS, Bonap. (Consp. Av. i. p. 539), in Leyden Museum, marked as from Nipâl. Decidedly a common Linnet (*L. cannabina*), and the alleged habitat extremely doubtful.

According to Dr. Jerdon, EUSPIZA AUREOLA and EMBERIZA RUTILA "appear to be the only Buntings found in Burmah." In the Burmese collection before mentioned, I observed at least one example of *Melophus melanicterus*.

OTOCORYS PENICILLATA (Ibis, 1868, p. 319). Qu. *O. longirostris* (cf. Ibis, 1867, p. 47)?

BUDYTES CITREOLUS, from Russia and Siberia (in Leyden Museum) = *B. calcaratus*, Hodgson (whether or not *B. citreolus*

of Gould's 'Birds of Europe'). An example of this bird in full summer dress, with the black back, obtained in the district of Mymensing by my late friend Mr. R. W. G. Frith, was presented to the Asiatic Society not long after my arrival in India; so that I have long been acquainted with it in all its phases of plumage.

B. RAYI, Bonap. (Ibis, 1868, p. 312). In all probability the young bird noticed should rather have been referred to *B. viridis* (v. *cinereocapillus*).

OSMOTRERON, from Sumatra. Like *O. malabarica*, but with grey cap and cheeks, no breast-patch and chocolate-coloured lower tail-coverts in the male. One of several closely allied races. Leyden Museum.

CARPOPHAGA INSIGNIS has on the average the wing 1 inch or 1.5 in. longer, but is otherwise very similar to *C. lacernulata* of Sumatra and Java, which sometimes has a distinct grey cap. *C. badia* and *C. insignis* seem to be the same, but the former is rather brighter in colouring, *C. lacernulata* being a little smaller.

CARPOPHAGA ROSACEA, from Timor, hardly differs from *C. aenea* and *C. sylvatica*, if these can be fairly separated. Of *C. pusilla*, nobis, I remarked four specimens from Travancore and Ceylon in the Leyden Museum.

COLUMBA VITICENSIS, Peale, from the Fiji Islands, is a true *Palumbus*.

MACROPYGIA LEPTOGRAMMICA, referred to by Dr. Jerdon in his notice of *M. tusalia* (B. Ind. no. 791), is not an inhabitant of Java, but of Celebes.

TURTUR MEENA (Ibis, 1868, pp. 203, 320). Qu. *T. rupicolus*? (cf. Ibis, 1867, p. 47, 1868, p. 355).

"COLUMBA TURTUR," from the Philippines (in Leyden Museum), is like *Turtur auritus*, but darker, the black predominating on the upper parts; lower tail-coverts white.

TURTUR LUGENS, of Abyssinia, is like *T. auritus*, but much darker, with no white margins to the neck-patch; dark ashy belly and lower tail-coverts.

PUCRASIA MACROLOPHA is figured with the sincipital tufts as

I have described them (Ibis, 1865, p. 28, note) in the 'Bengal Sporting Magazine' for 1836, p. 100.

EUPLOCAMUS PYRRHONOTUS, Selater, = *Phasianus personatus*, Temm. MS., in Leyden Museum; female distinguished from that of *E. erythrophthalmus* by the brown colouring of its throat.

ARBORICOLA GINGICA (*Perdix gingica*, Latham, Temm. Gall. v. 3, p. 410). Upper parts as in *P. rufogularis*, nobis, but the head browner, with a broad white supercilium spotted with black; throat and sides of the neck pale ferruginous, with elongate black spots, not transversely oval as in *A. rufogularis*; lower part of the front of the neck black, forming a triangular patch, which is bordered below with a white semicircle, and this by a broader semicircle of a deep maroon colour; lower parts ashy, passing to white on the middle of the belly, the feathers on the flanks being margined laterally with ferruginous; wing 5 in. *Hab.* — ? marked "Coromandel."

The following species of *Arboricola* are represented in the Leyden Museum:—1. *A. javanica*, from Java and Sumatra. 2. *A. personata*, from Java. 3. *A. atrogularis*. *Hab.* Sylhet and Assám. 4. *A. torqueola* (*megapodia*, Temm.), from the Himalaya. 5. *A. rufogularis*. *Hab.* East Himalaya and Tenasserim. 6. *A. gingica*. *Hab.* — ? (Philippines?). 7. *A. charltoni*, Eyton (*pyrrhogaster*, Reich.), Pinang. A bird of this genus on the Coromandel coast could not possibly have escaped the attention of naturalists and sportsmen in the Madras Presidency (*cf.* Ibis, 1867, p. 161).

With regard to the remark of Capt Beavan (Ibis, 1868, p. 385) respecting the habits of *Arboricola torqueola* and *A. rufogularis*, I must refer the reader to Dr. Stoliczka's observations (J. A. S. B. 1868, p. 69). According to him, *A. torqueola* "is very solitary in its habits, and during the summer it is generally met with only near the limit of trees, or near the snows; it comes down to Kotegurh, Simla, and other places merely in winter; as soon as the snow begins to melt on the higher ranges, it immediately retires to the interior." Capt. Beavan does not mention the season at which he saw *Arboricola* in coveys. I saw them rise solitarily in the Tenasserim provinces during the

height of the cold season, but in places where it was hopeless to think of knocking one over, or of picking it up if brought down—on steep bamboo-clad hill-sides, with a few exogenous trees sprinkled everywhere—localities where *Pitta cyanea* showed occasionally, easily recognizable by its colouring, even at a sudden momentary glance.

CHETUSIA CINEREA, nobis (1842), from Bengal and Burma, is a much larger species than *C. innotata*, Temminck & Schlegel (1850), of Japan, with which it has been erroneously identified, though quite similar in colouring. *C. spixi*, from Africa, is intermediate in size, with the black upon the tail more developed. Length of closed wing in *C. cinerea* 9·75 in., in *C. innotata*, 8 in.; of tarsus respectively 3·25 and 2·85 in.; bill from forehead 1·5 and 1·25 in. The coloured figure of *C. innotata* in the 'Fauna Japonica' is misnamed *melanoleuca*; and in the description (p. 107) the allied Indian species is described as to be distinguished "par une taille beaucoup plus forte."

SARCIOPHORUS BILOBUS has the crown black at the breeding-season, brown in winter (this in reference to Capt. Beavan's remarks, *Ibis*, 1868, p. 391).

CHARADRIUS INDICUS, *apud* Schlegel. From Nipâl (Hodgson). A single specimen at Leyden, which would appear to have about the same claim to the designation *indicus* as the Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon anglica*) has to its specific denomination. It is like *C. tricollaris* of South Africa, but larger, with no white on forehead, and four dark bands on the inner web of the outermost and penultimate tail-feathers; white occipital crescent, passing forwards to above but not anterior to the orbits; a broad black gorget, crossed by a white band, which divides it into two narrower black bands; throat albescent; bill black at tip, apparently orange-coloured at base; feet probably orange-coloured*. Length of wing 5 inches, of tail 2·875 in., and of bill from forehead ·625 in.

CHARADRIUS PERONI = *C. pusillus*, Horsfield.

THRESCIORNIS MELANOCEPHALUS. Contrary to what is stated

* Dr. Jerdon states erroneously that the legs of *C. philippensis* are yellow, instead of pale flesh-colour.

in Mr. Gould's 'Hand-book of the Birds of Australia,' this species differs from *T. æthiopicus*, and resembles the Australian *T. strictipennis* in having the long pectoral plumes when in breeding-dress. The naked portion of the neck is considerably less extended than in *T. æthiopicus*.

RALLUS INDICUS, nobis (as distinguished from *R. aquaticus*). From Japan (Leyden Museum) (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1867, p. 172*).

ANSER CYGNOIDES (*ferus*). Has a mere rudiment of the frontal knob, a narrow ring of white at base of bill, orange legs, and the colours of the plumage are well contrasted. Leyden Museum.

BERNICLA RUFICOLLIS is probably the species of which four were seen near Nagpore, one of which was procured. ('Bengal Sporting Magazine' for April 1836, p. 247.)

CASARCA SCUTULATA (*C. leucoptera*, nobis). Three specimens in the Leyden Museum, all abnormally parti-coloured, and having a domesticated appearance, unlike the wild race, which Dr. Jerdon has observed upon the Brahmaputra (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1867, p. 176.)

DENDROCYGNA GUTTATA of Celebes. A diminutive of the American *D. arborea*. *D. vagans*, Eyton, also from Celebes, with an unusually speckled breast. Leyden Museum.

DENDROCYGNA FULVA, of America, seems to be quite undistinguishable from *D. major* (*Ibis*, 1867, p. 175)! Specimens from Africa and America in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, were absolutely alike.

XI. Note on the Systematic Position of Indicator.

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

WITH one single exception, as far as I know, all writers on ornithology have hitherto concurred in referring the genus *Indicator* to the family *Cuculidæ*. The dissident authority is Mr. Blyth, who has thus spoken on the subject:—

* The reference (*ibid.*) for *Crex pratensis* having been once obtained in Oudh is in the 'Bengal Sporting Magazine' for 1842, p. 870.